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LANSING

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Michigan's March Unemployment Rate Remains 4.0 Percent

Lansing – Michigan's March seasonally adjusted jobless rate was unchanged for the sixth consecutive month, according to data released today by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB). Total employment increased by 7,000 over the month and the number of unemployed edged up by 3,000. The state's total workforce advanced by 11,000 since February.

The Michigan jobless rate in March 2019 was four-tenths below its March 2018 rate of 4.4 percent. The national jobless rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point over the same period. The state's unemployment rate in March was two-tenths of a percentage point above the national rate. The U.S jobless rate was unchanged at 3.8 percent in March.

"Jobless rates in Michigan have held constant since October" said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, "Payroll employment has remained relatively stable over the last two months."

Monthly Labor Force Trends & Highlights

- Michigan's labor force expanded for the seventh consecutive month. The state's workforce has grown by 43,000 since August 2018, or 0.9 percent. Over the year, the labor force grew by 32,000, or 0.7 percent.
- Michigan's first quarter 2019 jobless rate of 4.0 percent matched the prior quarter rate and was four-tenths below the first quarter 2018 statewide average rate of 4.4 percent.
- The Michigan first quarter 2019 unemployment rate was a tenth of a percentage point above the national quarterly rate of 3.9 percent.
- Over the year, total employment increased by 47,000, or 1.0 percent, and the number of unemployed fell by 16,000, or 7.4 percent. Nationally, total employment edged up by 1.3 percent and unemployment fell by 4.6 percent.

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**MICHIGAN
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2018	February 2019	March 2019	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	4,905	4,926	4,937	11	32
Employment	4,691	4,731	4,738	7	47
Unemployment	214	195	198	3	-16
Rate (Percent)	4.4	4.0	4.0	xxx	xxx

Detroit Metropolitan Area's March Jobless Rate Up Over Month

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March of 4.1 percent was a tenth of a percentage point above the February rate. Total employment rose by 4,000 while the number of unemployed edged up by 1,000, resulting in a workforce gain of 5,000 in March.

Over the year, the Detroit metropolitan area's jobless rate also inched up by a tenth of a percentage point. Total employment rose by 28,000, or 1.4 percent, while the number of unemployed moved up by 3,000, or 3.4 percent. The Detroit MSA's workforce advanced by 31,000 over the year, or 1.5 percent.

**Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA
Labor Force Estimates**

Seasonally Adjusted
(Data in Thousands)

	March 2018	February 2019	March 2019	Change	
				Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	2,119	2,145	2,150	5	31
Employment	2,034	2,058	2,062	4	28
Unemployment	85	87	88	1	3
Rate (Percent)	4.0	4.0	4.1	xxx	xxx

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March Payroll Jobs Little Changed Over the Month

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs remained stable in March. Nonfarm employment inched down by 2,000, a decline of less than 0.1 percent. Most major industries demonstrated little or no job change in March. The most pronounced over-the-month job decline occurred in *Professional and business services* (-2,000)

Industry Employment Trends and Highlights

- Michigan's slight nonfarm job decline in March ended a five-month long streak of payroll job gains in Michigan from October 2018 through February 2019. Since September 2018, payroll jobs have increased by 24,000 in the state.
- On a numerical basis, Michigan's *Manufacturing* sector demonstrated the largest over-the-year job addition out of all major industries, up by 9,000 since March 2018.
- The *Construction* sector in Michigan recorded no seasonally adjusted job change over the month. Despite this, the sector had the largest over-the-year increase in payroll employment on a percentage basis, advancing by 2.6 percent.
- Over the year, payroll jobs statewide moved up by 26,000 or 0.6 percent, which lagged considerably behind the national gain of 1.7 percent over the year.
- Michigan's first quarter 2019 average payroll job level of 4,444 rose by 38,000 since the first quarter 2018.

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MICHIGAN
Payroll Employment Estimates
Seasonally Adjusted
 (Data in Thousands)

	<u>March</u>	<u>February*</u>	<u>March**</u>	CHANGE***	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,418	4,445	4,443	-2	26
Natural Resources & Mining	7	7	7	0	0
Construction	168	173	172	0	4
Manufacturing	629	638	638	-1	9
Transportation Equipment	193	196	197	0	4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	790	797	796	-1	6
Retail Trade	472	470	469	-1	-3
Information	56	57	57	1	1
Financial Activities	219	222	222	0	4
Professional & Business Services	661	662	660	-2	-1
Education & Health Services	681	677	677	1	-3
Leisure & Hospitality Services	435	440	440	0	5
Other Services	166	168	168	0	2
Government	607	606	605	-1	-2

*Final data for February 2019

** Preliminary data for March 2019

*** Change calculated using unrounded data

Hours & Earnings for Production Workers
Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing

	<u>March</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	CHANGE	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Average Weekly Earnings	\$918.90	\$934.08	\$935.71	\$1.63	\$16.81
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	42.7	42.4	-0.3	-1.3

Transportation Equipment

Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,182.29	\$1,203.67	\$1,195.32	-\$8.35	\$13.03
Average Weekly Hours	48.8	47.6	46.8	-0.8	-2.0